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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Research Administration



ONE OF THE BUREAU'S REGIONAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL
and
INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY

G. E. Hilbert, Chief

X BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY
87 YEARS OLD X

The Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry is one of the oldest agencies in the United States Department of Agriculture. It was established as the Division of Chemistry in 1862, became the Bureau of Chemistry in 1901, the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils in 1927, the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering in 1938, and the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry in 1943.

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The first scientific position in what is now the Department of Agriculture was that of chemist, established in 1862. The first scientific publication to emanate from the Department was a report on the Chemical Analysis of Grapes issued in 1862. Since then Bureau scientists have produced more than 10,000 publications on the results of their investigations.

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Today the Bureau consists of the four Regional Research Laboratories, established in 1938 to search for new and wider industrial outlets and markets for agricultural commodities, and 17 other laboratories and field stations in various parts of the country. Its work requires the services of approximately 1,600 persons, more than half of whom are chemists, physicists, engineers, and other technically trained scientists. The Bureau devotes most of its attention to a search for new and wider industrial outlets for farm crops, and to improving methods for the commercial processing of foods and feeds, in the hope of increasing farm income.

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Bureau accomplishments have influenced our lives in many ways. By developing methods that increased yields of penicillin more than 100 times, Bureau scientists made possible the commercial production of this vital drug in time for its use during the war. They found new ways to make brilliant, fast dyes for cotton that resulted in the gaily colored cotton fabrics worn today. A widely used process for treating citrus fruit with ethylene gas to bring out its bright orange or yellow color is another result of the Bureau's early work.

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Recent Bureau developments include four new synthetic fibers, spun from proteins of corn, milk, peanuts, and chicken feathers; a treatment for low-grade cotton fabric that gives it a linenlike appearance and increases its usefulness; "partial acetylation", the best means so far devised for making cotton goods virtually rotproof and mildewproof; a method for producing motor fuels from corn-cobs; a springy, curled casein filament, which is used in a new type carburetor air filter and is also suited for mattresses and upholstered furniture; soybean glue now used in the casings of half the country's shotgun shells; and a new drug called rutin, extracted from green buckwheat plants, for treating capillary fragility associated with high blood pressure.

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The Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry is sometimes called the chemurgic research agency of the Department because of the nature of its work. It has found new uses for agricultural waste products, such as making improved paper pulps and insulating boards from straw; soft-grit blasting material for cleaning engine parts from ground corn-cobs and rice hulls; and a valuable poultry feed from waste vegetable leaves. The Bureau's contributions to improved processing of food products have also been outstanding.

Laboratories and Field Stations
of the
Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry

Northern Regional Research Laboratory, Peoria, Ill.
R. T. Milner, Director

Southern Regional Research Laboratory, New Orleans, La.
Walter M. Scott, Director

Eastern Regional Research Laboratory, Philadelphia, Pa.
P. A. Wells, Director

Western Regional Research Laboratory, Albany, Calif.
M. J. Copley, Director

Agricultural Chemical Research Division, New Orleans, La.
L. F. Martin, Head

Citrus Products Laboratory, Winter Haven, Fla.
M. K. Veldhuis, In Charge

Fruit & Vegetable Products Laboratory, Weslaco, Tex.
W. C. Scott, In Charge

Sugarcane Field Station, Houma, La.
R. T. Balch, In Charge

Tung Oil Laboratory, Bogalusa, La.
R. S. McKinney, In Charge

Food Fermentation Investigations, Raleigh, N. C.
J. L. Etchells, In Charge

Biologically Active Chemical Compounds Division, Beltsville, Md.
T. D. Fontaine, Head

Enzyme Research Division, Albany, Calif.
A. K. Balls, Head

Research Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif.
E. A. Beavens, In Charge

Fruit and Vegetable Products Laboratory, Pullman, Wash.
A. M. Neubert, In Charge

Microbiology Research Division, Beltsville, Md.
Mathilde Solowey, Acting Head

Pharmacology Laboratory, Albany, Calif.
Floyd DeEds, Head

Naval Stores Research Division, New Orleans, La.
E. L. Patton, Head

Naval Stores Station, Olustee, Fla.
G. P. Shingler, In Charge

Allergen Research Division, Washington, D. C.
H. Stevens, Head

Natural Rubber Investigations, Salinas, Calif.
I. C. Feustel, Head

Synthetic Liquid Fuels Project, Peoria, Ill.
H. G. Maister, Head

